

Community resources

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courage is contagious

Viewing cable 07CAIRO1641, CODEL PRICE MEETING AT PARLIAMENT ELICITS PUBLIC

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#07CAIRO1641**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
07CAIRO1641	2007-05-31 14:17	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Cairo

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.al-akhbar.com/node/9135>
<http://www.al-akhbar.com/node/9164>
<http://www.al-akhbar.com/node/9146>
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<http://www.al-akhbar.com/node/10185>

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/29/2017
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [KDEM](#) [KISL](#) [EG](#)
SUBJECT: CODEL PRICE MEETING AT PARLIAMENT ELICITS PUBLIC
CRITICISM FROM PRESIDENTIAL PALACE

CLASSIFIED BY: DCM STUART E. JONES, FOR REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D).

¶1. (SBU) IN A MAY 27 MEETING AT THE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY, PRESIDED OVER BY SPEAKER FATHI SUROUR, CODEL PRICE MET WITH SEVERAL EGYPTIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS, INCLUDING HEAD OF THE MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD (MB) PARLIAMENTARY BLOC MOHAMED SAAD AL KATANI, NDP PARLIAMENTARY LEADER ABDEL AHAD GAMALEDDIN, AL WAFD LEADER MAHMOUD ABAZA, AND THE HEADS OF FIVE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES (ALL NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY MP'S). THE MEETING DID NOT TOUCH UPON EGYPTIAN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS, BUT RATHER, THE EGYPTIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS FOCUSED THEIR REMARKS ON THE NEED FOR AN "UNBIASED AND BALANCED" U.S. APPROACH TO THE PEACE PROCESS, PALESTINIAN-ISRAELI PEACE AS THE KEY TO STABILITY IN THE REGION, THE NEED FOR U.S. FORCES TO WITHDRAW FROM IRAQ "ON A TIMETABLE THAT IS NOT ABRUPT, BUT NOT SLOW, AND THAT HAS REGIONAL CONSENSUS," AND CRITICISM OF THE U.S. FOR NOT ADVOCATING FOR A NWFZ IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

¶2. (SBU) AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE THE AFTERNOON OF MAY 27 (FOLLOWING A PRESIDENT MUBARAK MEETING WITH THE VISITING PRESIDENT OF GHANA), PRESIDENTIAL SPOKESMAN SOLEIMAN AWWAD WAS ASKED ABOUT CODEL PRICE'S MEETING AT PARLIAMENT, AND RESPONDED: "WE KNOW THE U.S. DOES NOT ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH BANNED GROUPS, WHETHER IN EGYPT OR ELSEWHERE, AND THAT WHEN IT MAKES CONTACTS WITH INDEPENDENT MP'S IT DOES SO BECAUSE THEY ARE MP'S AND NOT BECAUSE THEY REPRESENT A SPECIFIC POLITICAL TREND. BUT THIS CONTRADICTS WITH ANOTHER AMERICAN POLICY POSITION. THE U.S. SAYS IT IS MEETING WITH THE MB AS PARLIAMENT MEMBERS, BUT DOES NOT MAKE THE SAME DISTINCTION WHEN IT COMES TO HAMAS, AND REFUSES TO TALK WITH HAMAS, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THEY ARE PARLIAMENTARIANS, OR EVEN MINISTERS IN THE PALESTINIAN CABINET. THE U.S. CAN DO WHATEVER IT LIKES, BUT WE WILL DO WHATEVER WE LIKE TO PROTECT EGYPT'S NATIONAL SECURITY, PRINCIPLES OF CITIZENSHIP, AND TO PREVENT MIXING RELIGION WITH POLITICS. THOSE WHO THINK THAT EGYPT'S NATIONAL SECURITY IS LESS SIGNIFICANT THAN OTHER COUNTRIES' INTEREST IN THEIR OWN NATIONAL SECURITY (INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES) ARE MAKING A BIG MISTAKE."

¶3. (SBU) ON MAY 29, THE MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD ENGLISH-LANGUAGE WEBSITE (WWW.IKHWANWEB.COM) POSTED A STATEMENT FROM KATATNI REGARDING THE CODEL PRICE MEETING AND AWWAD'S RESPONSE. KATATNI "EXPRESSED HIS ANGER AT THE PRESIDENTS SPOKESPERSON FOR OVERSTEPPING HIS AUTHORITY AND UNDERMINING THE INTEGRITY OF MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENT IN GENERAL AND THE MB IN PARTICULAR." KATATNI ADDED THAT, "AMBASSADOR AWWAD WAS WRONG TO DESCRIBE THE DOUBLE STANDARDS BY THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION REGARDING THE HAMAS GOVERNMENT AND THE MB IN EGYPT, WHEN THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT ITSELF IS DOING EXACTLY THE SAME BY INVITING AND RECEIVING PALESTINIAN PRESIDENT MAHMOUD ABBAS AND FATAH MEMBERS AND MINISTERS, BUT REFUSES TO DEAL WITH PA PRIME MINISTER ISMAIL HANIYA AND HAMAS MINISTERS." KATATNI SAID THAT, "THE MEETING WITH U.S. CONGRESSMEN WAS A ROUTINE DIALOGUE BETWEEN MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENTS ACROSS THE WORLD AND WAS NOT SECRET," AND REITERATED, "THE MB'S FIRM STANCE NOT TO MEET WITH OFFICIALS FROM THE U.S. GOVERNMENT UNLESS IN COORDINATION WITH THE EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY."

¶4. (C) COMMENT: AWWAD'S TESTY PUBLIC STATEMENT REGARDING THE CODEL PRICE MEETING AT PARLIAMENT IS INDICATIVE OF GOE CONCERN THAT MEETING WITH MB-AFFILIATED MP'S IS BECOMING STANDARD PRACTICE FOR VISITING CODEL'S. THE CODEL PRICE MEETING WAS THE SECOND TIME IN TWO MONTHS THAT A CODEL HAS MET WITH MB PARLIAMENTARY BLOC LEADER KATATNI (ON APRIL 5, CODEL HOYER MET TWICE WITH KATATNI IN GROUP SETTINGS - FIRST AT A SIMILAR MEETING IN PARLIAMENT, AND SUBSEQUENTLY AT A LARGE RECEPTION FOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, PARLIAMENTARIANS, CIVIL SOCIETY ACTIVISTS, AND BUSINESSMEN AT THE AMBASSADOR'S HOME).

¶5. (U) THIS CABLE WAS NOT CLEARED BY CODEL PRICE.
RICCIARDONE